

## **Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998**

On October 21, 1998, the federal government passed the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998. One of the provisions of this act requires group health plans to notify health plan members of their rights under this law on an annual basis.

### **What benefits does the law guarantee?**

Under this law, group health plans that provide medical and surgical benefits, in connection with a mastectomy, must provide certain benefits for certain reconstructive surgery. These include:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed.
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance.
- Prostheses and physical complications of all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

The law also states that "the services will be considered in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient." In other words, you and your physician will determine the most appropriate treatment for your individual situation. Coverage of these services is subject to the terms and conditions of your health plan, including your plan's normal co-payment, annual deductibles, and coinsurance provisions.

### **For more information:**

If you have questions regarding your benefits or rights under this act, call the Meritain customer service number on your health ID card, or contact the Human Resources Office.

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